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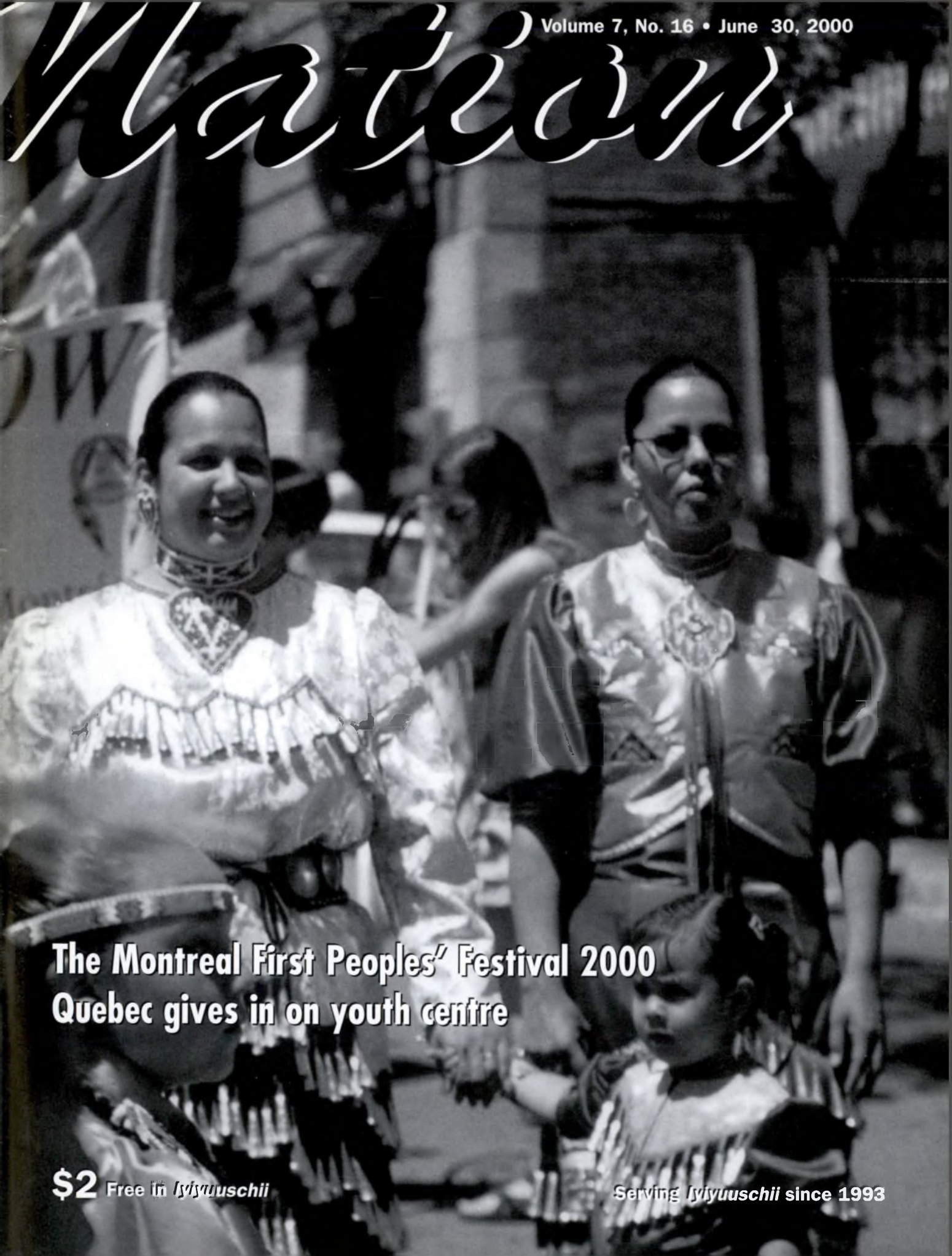
Nation



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So Sorry. . . .

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." I think he spoke the truth. When you begin to ignore or not talk about what is going around you because you feel uncomfortable bringing up the matter then you are not living to your full potential.

With that little homily it's time I talked about some things that matter. You see I have a few apologies to make.

The first one goes out to two people: Daisy and Mabel Herodier. In my story on the run-off election I put in Daisy's name where Mabel's was supposed to be. After not writing for a few months I found myself writing and laying out the magazine. I literally was doing both right up until the time the printer picked up the paper to be printed. I didn't arrive back from Mistissini until Tuesday evening. This meant I only started writing on Wednesday and had to layout at the same time. Sometime during the day I must have overheard Daisy's name used as we were doing another project with her. I am sorry for the resulting mix-up and have apologized to both. Though I have done this privately I feel it matters to do it publicly. After all, the entire mistake was a public one so the apology should be also.

I also have to apologize to my own community of Mistissini for the mistake on the cover. For those few of you who may have missed it Mistissini was spelled Mistisini. A stupid mistake that shouldn't have happened and won't happen again on my watch.

Thirdly I have to apologize to all you, the readers for the less than perfect work in the Nation last issue because of those mistakes and some of the grammar mistakes that happened. We have set up a method whereby this should not happen in the future. Anyhow, deadlines or not and having two writers out on another assignment, these are not the types of mistakes I like to see anytime. I will endeavor in the future to bring you the type of Nation that you have all grown used to and rightly expected this time.

There's a saying that it takes a big man to recognize and apologize for his mistakes but to tell the truth I don't really feel like a big man at this point in time. I feel like I have egg on my face. I do not wish to feel this way so in addition to wanting to put out the best paper possible I have the added incentive of not wishing to be embarrassed in the future.

Once again I apologize to all and accept full responsibility for the mistakes in the past issue.

by William Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

Native Women on a Saturday Afternoon

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UN REZ NOTES

not by Ndiamon

NEXT TIME.....

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The Nation

QUEBEC GIVES IN ONE HOUR BEFORE MARCH

Just an hour before Waswanipi youths were supposed to start a 750-kilometre protest walk to Quebec City, the news came from the Quebec government.

The province had agreed to release $2.2 million in promised funds to finish the community's long-awaited youth centre.

At first, youth chief Marcel Happyjack and the 11 other walkers were skeptical. "We weren't too excited yet because we wanted to review the contents of the letter," he said.

"We've heard that before. We didn't really trust (Native Affairs Minister Guy) Chevrette until we got the letter."

A few days later, confirmation arrived and the paperwork was done. Work on the youth centre is going ahead and Happyjack hopes it'll be finished in four or five months. The march was cancelled.

"The youth are very happy that we're going to get their building finished," said Happyjack.

The youth council has big plans for the building, including arts and music programs. It will house a gym, arcade room, fitness room, office space for the youth department, a music room and a stage for drama.

Like with other recent Quebec grants to the Crees, the province isn't coming right out and handing over the $2.2 million. Instead, the community has to arrange a bank loan that will be guaranteed and later paid off by Quebec.

The centre was started in Sept. 1998, but work got put on hold after Chevrette suspended millions of dollars of funding to Cree community projects in Feb. 1999.

He took the step after Crees filed a $500-million lawsuit against Quebec, Canada and the logging industry over forestry operations that are destroying Cree traplines.

Crees calculate they are owed over $60 million in funds that were given to meet unfulfilled promises dating back to the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

A Chevrette aide told reporters the youth march had nothing to do with the release of the long-awaited funds.

But Happyjack thinks the timing is no coincidence. "Chevrette says it's not related," he said. "I think it was. I think he wanted to spare the embarrassment."

The original 12 walkers were to be joined by 30 others a few days later. They were set to head out on June 14.

The march would have come at a bad time for Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, who was due to hold his first-ever meeting with Grand Chief Ted Moses last week.

The long-anticipated summit might be a chance to finally break the impasse in Quebec-Cree relations that has prevailed since the Feb. 1999 suspension of funds. The meeting happened too late to get in a report before press time.

Happyjack said the youth centre has suffered about $100,000 in weather damage since work was stopped. The initial phase of construction was financed with $1 million from the Board of Compensation, which manages Cree heritage funds, and $100,000 from the Quebec government.

by Alex Roslin

Crees hit with "unjust" phone bill hike

Crees will be hit with another whopping increase in phone bills starting July 1, with monthly rates in most communities shooting up 17 percent for a basic hookup.

Télébec, the Bell Canada subsidiary that serves northern Quebec, already charged the highest residential rates in the country.

Even before the latest spike, its rates had jumped 72 percent since 1995.

Télébec got permission to raise rates again across northern Quebec in a June 9 decision by the Canadian Radio-television and Communications Commission.

In a dissenting opinion, one commissioner opposed the rate hike, saying it is "not just and reasonable."

Commissioner Barbara Cram wrote that Télébec's financial assumptions "are flawed. In my view, Télébec does not require rate relief."

A Télébec official admitted to *The Nation* that the company isn't losing money, and in fact has a healthy profit margin.

Michel Gilbert, the company's general manager of regulatory matters, refused to say how much profit the company made last year. He did acknowledge, however, that Télébec earned a very respectable 10.4-to-12.4-percent return on its equity.

Gilbert blamed the phone-bill hike on a legal dispute with Hydro-Quebec. Télébec didn't get as much as it hoped for in a dispute with Hydro-Quebec over use of each other's poles.

In a settlement in 1996 or 1997, Télébec got $6 million less than expected, Gilbert said. So the company decided to hit up residents to make up the difference.

Gilbert said residents of Chisasibi, Eastmain, Waswanipi, Wemindji, Waskaganish, Nemaska and Matagami will see their basic phone bills rise by $4, from $22.93 to $26.93.

Ouje-Bougoumou residents, who are in the Chibougamau-Chapais exchange, will get a hike from $27.83 to $31.10. Mistissini bills will go from $30.28 to $31.10.

-BY ALEX ROSLIN

MESSAGE TO THE CREE NATION

WACHIYE, as the Cree School Board elections are now complete and the voice of the people have spoken, I wish to extend my sincerest appreciation to each of you who voted for me in these elections. I especially want to express my profound gratitude to my wife, Louise and each of my children who stood with me through a difficult journey, and my grandchildren who in their innocence became my greatest strength.

I will forever be in gratitude for your prayers, and sharing with me your hopes and dreams of renewed progress in Cree education. Although many questions and feelings remain, we also have much opportunity to build upon this recent experience and I encourage each of you to remain hopeful and be forward looking in all Cree education issues.

I will always cherish and uphold with the greatest respect the opportunity you gave me to seek to serve and lead you.

To the Cree communities which I could not visit, I once again apologize for failing to visit you due to lack of resources to do so.

I now wish to express my gradulation to Mabel Herodier for her successful candidacy as the newly elected Chairperson, of the Cree School Board. My prayers and support are with you in achieving the mandate as provided.

Until the next time, thank you so much for your vote and support. Meegwetch!

From Kenny Blacksmith

To The Nation

Here is an article to make all happy and proud. On March 31, 2000 in Wemindji, Constable David Kakabat was presented with the Governor General's Medal for over 20 years service by Chief Reggie Mark.

He previously received a Certificate for 15 years service to his community.

Besides Chief Mark and several Council members, his fellow officers and family were present for the presentation and meal that followed. It just happened that March 31 was his fiftieth birthday also.

In December 21, 2000 he will have served the community of Wemindji for twenty five years as a police officer. He is not only a good police officer, but a good friend .

In all of our communities there are similar persons who deserve our respect and admiration; it would be nice to hear about more of them.

Yours in friendship,

Tom. R. Wadden

Dear Readers:

I am helping a friend search for his biological family. he was born Timothy Sean Cadrian/Cadrin(?)

December 19, 1967 at Ottawa Civic Hospital, Ottawa Ontario. Tim is currently waiting for his information to be released to him from the CAS so this is all the information that we have. We are not sure where his mother was from or if she had been in an 'Unwed Mothers Home'. Tim's picture was placed in the newspaper in the former 'Today's Child' advertising children available for adoption. He was also born with a 'birth defect' (awful term) that caused one arm to not form properly.We are sorry if this letter causes embarrassment as that is not our intention. Tim is a wonderful intelligent warm man that a birth family would be proud to know. If you have any information that would help Tim contact his birth family please forward it to the address below. Also if is birth family does not wish to have contact at this time it would be appreciated if we were informed of that so Tim could stop searching.

Thank you,

Denise Brennan

PO Box 1574 Petrolia, Ontario

N0N 1R0

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HEALTH BOARD BOTCHED RESCUE: CORONER

The Quebec coroner's office has blasted the Nunavik Health Board for a lack of "good sense" and "compassion" after taking 18 hours to rescue a badly burned Inuk Elder. The woman died from burns that covered almost all of her body.

The coroner's report, dated April 25, comes at a time of growing questions about whether the Nunavik Health Board provides adequate services in the Inuit communities.

Sarah Ningiuruvik Paulusi, 79, was at her cabin about 25 kilometres outside Kangiqsujuaq with some other Elders and her son on Jun 1, 1999.

She had poor vision and accidentally filled a camp stove with gasoline instead of kerosene. As she attempted to light the stove at around 6 p.m., it exploded.

Her son, outside chopping wood when the blast occurred, looked up to see his mother's face on fire through the window of the cabin. Her clothes were all burning and only her feet weren't on fire.

He put out the flames with three other women, then jumped on a snowmobile and headed to town to get help. The son arrived at 9:30 p.m., but the two nurses said they couldn't leave the community to help because of internal regulations.

Ningiuruvik couldn't be medevac'ed out either because all available pilots said they'd already flown their legally allotted hours for that day.

According to federal law, pilots are limited to only a 14-hour daily shift.

Finally, a convoy of local Canadian Rangers and a police officer took off to help the Elder at 11 p.m., arriving a little after midnight.

by Alex Roslin

The officer applied first aid based on instructions from the community's health clinic staff. He also contacted the village by radio and informed the clinic that Ningiuruvik was seriously burned and needed to be flown to Kuujjuak as soon as she was brought into the community.

The group left the camp at 12:45 a.m. and, travelling at reduced speed, arrived in Kangiqsujuaq at 3 a.m., seven hours after the explosion. On her arrival, no plane had been called because of another regulation that requires nurses to visually check patients before ordering a medevac.

It wasn't until 9:30 a.m. that Ningiuruvik was taken to the airport. She arrived in Kuujjuak at noon, where she finally got hospital treatment, 18 hours after the accident. At 7 p.m., the hospital again put her on a plane, this time to take her to a Quebec City hospital burn unit.

When she arrived at 11:35 p.m., on June 2, it was nearly 30 hours since the explosion. Ningiuruvik passed away there at 3:10 the morning of June 3.

"The speed of the emergency response from the moment she arrived in Kuujjuak seems without reproach, but we can't say the same about the time lapse between the explosion at Sarah Paulusi's cabin and her transport to the hospital in Kuujjuak," wrote the coroner, Dr. Pierre Samson.

"The lack of internal planning in such a situation needs to be the subject of an urgent and thorough review by public authorities, so well-organized services are available in any emergency or disaster that may arise."

Mabel Herodier elected as school board chair

The Cree School Board has a new chairperson -- Mabel Herodier.

Herodier got 904 votes out of 1,715 cast in the June 15 runoff poll, or 53 percent of the total.

Rival candidate Kenny Blacksmith got 811 votes, or 47 percent of the total.

No figures were available on what percentage of Crees turned out to cast a ballot. Chief electoral officer John Henry Wapachee didn't return phone calls.

It was a close vote with Herodier winning in all five coastal communities and Blacksmith leading inland. Herodier also took the three polls outside Iyiyuuschii (Val d'Or, Montreal and Ottawa).

Thirteen ballots were rejected.

David Masty acclaimed as chief

David Masty has been acclaimed as chief of Whapmagoostui.

There were no other candidates for the job at a nomination meeting held June 12.

Masty has been chief since last November, when then-chief Matthew Mukash stepped down after getting elected as deputy grand chief. Masty was elected by acclamation then too to complete Mukash's three-year term as chief.

The community is holding another election June 28 to fill seven council positions.

Cree connection in Hells drug network?

Police are investigating a possible Cree connection to a large drug-smuggling network in the Inuit communities that was recently dismantled and had links to the Hells Angels.

Forty police officers raided several residences in the Montreal area on May 30 and 31, arresting six people.

Among them were alleged ringleaders Gilles Allard of Val d'Or, known for his connections to the Hells Angels, and Michel Leblanc, a former RCMP officer.

Police also seized six kilos of hash, 21

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continued from page 7

grams of coke, contraband alcohol, two Jeep Cherokees and $130,000 in cash.

Cree police are staying tightlipped about whether the network was also active in the Cree communities. A Chisasibi police officer refused to say anything beyond acknowledging that police are investigating.

"The investigation is ongoing," he said.

In other communities, police didn't know anything about the network and said they aren't investigating. A Whapmagoostui police officer said there is no investigation in her community.

Johnny Trapper, acting chief of police in Mistissini, said the drug market in the Chibougamau region seems to be controlled by the Satan's Guards, a gang affiliated with the Hells Angels but based in Chicoutimi.

The Inuit network, on the other hand, was affiliated with the Rockers, a Montreal-based motorcycle gang created directly by the Hells Angels, said police.

The ring supplied the Inuit communities of Quebec and five communities in Nunavut. The investigation of the network was conducted by the Sûreté du Québec and Kativik Regional Police.

They said the dealers used a canning machine to package coke, hash and marijuana and sent it by plane to the north using a phony return address.

Police said they found a list of about 40 Inuit people who apparently owed $200,000 to $300,000 for drugs.

Police are continuing the investigation and have made at least 30 more arrests since the initial raids. They are slowly working their way down to the local dealers in each of the Inuit communities.

The network sent about a kilogram of hash north each week and made about $1.5 million in profit each year, police said.

Prices ranged from $50 a gram for hash to $200 for a gram of coke.

Shootout in Kuujjuarapik

An Inuk man is recovering from four gunshot wounds and faces 11 charges after a shooting spree and car chase early the morning of June 17 in Kuujjuarapik.

Markusie Weetaltuk, 18, was charged with sexual assault, attempted murder, several charges of mischief causing damage, dangerous driving, shooting a firearm inside town limits and dangerous use of a firearm.

The mayhem started around 4 a.m. after someone accused Weetaltuk of sexually assaulting a woman, according to Montreal Urban Community police commander André Bouchard, head of the department's major-crimes unit, which was called in to investigate the incident -- standard procedure in police shootings.

Weetaltuk's mom went to get the Inuit police after her son fired a gun twice inside their house, said Bouchard. When the unarmed officers approached the house, Weetaltuk fired a 12-guage shotgun at them from a window, Bouchard said.

The officers retreated, but Weetaltuk started chasing them and hit one of the officers in the chest with a shotgun blast, Bouchard said.

Luckily it was buckshot and the officer wasn't badly injured, he said. In all, five shotgun blasts were fired at the officers, Bouchard said.

Weetaltuk then proceeded to the local jail where he allegedly busted down a door to try to free two of his friends being held there. After failing to open the jail cell, he returned to his home, all the while followed by Inuit police officers, said Bouchard. By this point, they had called in Sûreté du Québec and Cree police for backup.

Weetaltuk managed to get to his car and took off with police in hot pursuit. "This is when the bumper cars started," said Bouchard.

The cars knocked into each other for a little while, until eventually an SQ cruiser drove Weetaltuk off the road, said Bouchard. As the SQ officer approached, the suspect allegedly got out and pointed his shotgun at the officer, who dove under his own car.

An Inuk cop arrived and Weetaltuk swung his gun toward him, said Bouchard. During this whole time, police were allegedly screaming at Weetaltuk to put the gun down.

The SQ officer then fired three times at Weetaltuk with his sidearm, hitting him twice in the side and once in the front, said Bouchard. The Inuk cop also fired with a shotgun, hitting Weetaltuk in the left arm, according to Bouchard.

Bouchard said Weetaltuk did not fire at the officers after his car crashed, contrary to a report in *The Montreal Gazette*.

Weetaltuk, still alive but suffering grave injuries, was medevac'ed to a Montreal hospital. He was charged on June 20.

Crees sue Meubles Économiques

A group of Mistissini Crees who lost money in the bankruptcy of a Chibougamau furniture store, Meubles Économiques, are going to small-claims court.

The claimants made advance payments to the store toward the purchase of furniture. They want to recover about $2,500 lost when the company went bankrupt last month.

Mistissini lawyer Guy Prud'homme said he's trying to locate any other Crees who lost money and would like to join the claim.

MONTREAL'S FIRST PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL 2000

— WILLIAM NICHOLLS —

It justs gets bigger each year and this is the tenth year that Terres en vues or Land in Sight (English translation) has put on a show for Montreal. I am constantly surprised at the caliber of people, films and performers that they come up with. It's nice to see First People's films starting to get out there. There are so many talented people in the world and this event offers them the opportunity to strut their stuff. It was nicely done. Andre Dudemaine of Terres en vues (Lands in Sight) officially opened the Montreal First People's Film Festival on June 12th.

The first film to be shown was *Romance in Nunavik*. *Romance in Nunavik* was a sweet story as can be guessed by the name. It's the story of a girl from Scotland visiting the far north with her father. She's on vacation and catches the eye of an Inuk. They fall in love, she moved back to Scotland, sells off her possessions, he sends her the difference in plane ticket costs, they live together and get married all in under a

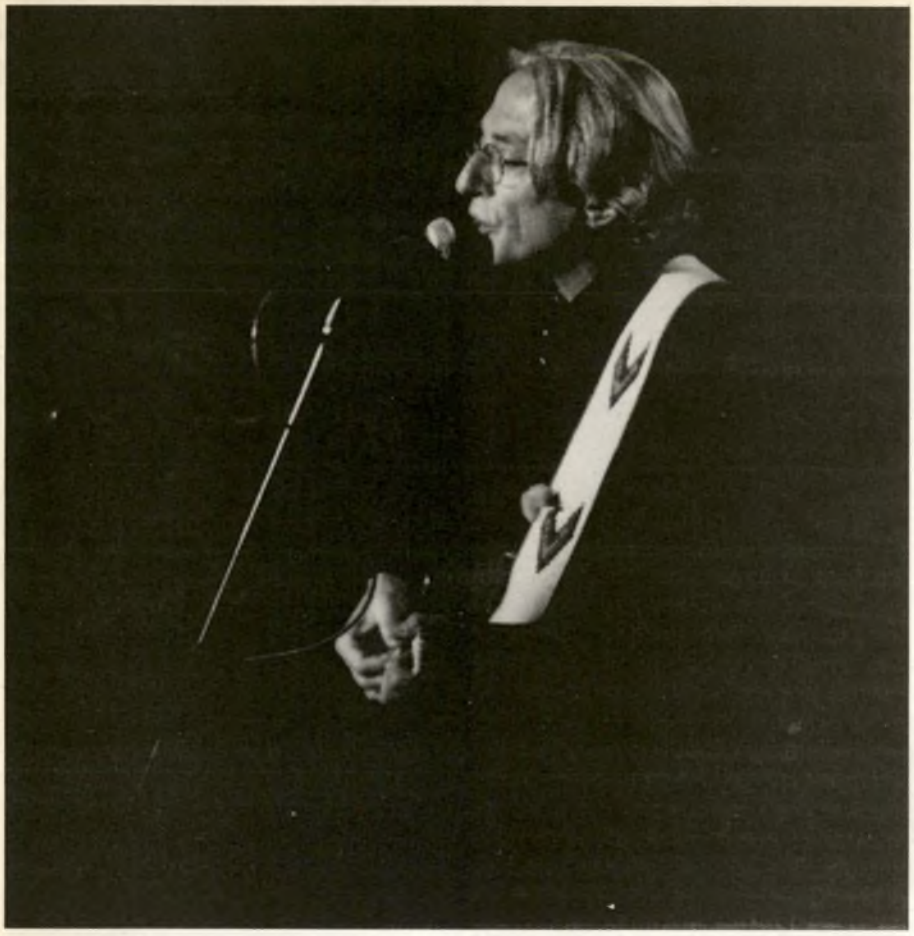
year. She has killed caribou, ice fished, made bannock, scraped hides, snowmobiled, plucked geese and generally learnt Inuk traditional activities. The couple has two children and this has helped her fit in the community. The whole film shifts between Scotland and Nunavik, the contrasts between the two are quite clear, especially considering the Joanna, the Scottish girl, used to be a vegetarian. There is an Inuit narrator that helps to define questions and talk about Nunavik. It was a thoroughly enjoyable film to watch.

The next feature was *Heater*, a film about two men in Winnipeg. It's a gutsy film about the streets and the people who live on them. Gary Farmer plays an Aboriginal man who trying to make it off of them

while the other man is a slightly demented thief who's trying to sell a heater for $20. Essentially it's a story about their day. A sad, pathetic story about two people with whimsical humourous moments... at least to those who aren't on the streets. I would recommend this film for all those who wonder what's it's really like. I would especially recommend it for those who never do wonder. On hand was Gary Farmer to receive the audience's appreciation of the film. Another figure that stood out was Willie Dunn. People didn't notice who he was at first as Dunn's lost a little hair and put on some weight in the past years.

The second night I didn't watch any films but went instead to the *Rez White & Blues* show. It was a traditional start with two Inuit throat singers. A simple yet powerful beginning.

Next up was Inuk rock band *Sinuupa*. The ultimate far north garage band with two CD's under their belt. Lead singer Edward Snowball was great. It was quite a rockin' contrast from the throat singers but the cool snow glasses said this boy still has his roots. Snowball told me he made them himself. When I hinted I'd like a set of the impressive eye-gear myself Snowball told me how long it would take. Better time writing more great tunes says I. He's got a great sound that woke up the crowd. Snowball comes from Kuujuaq and about



75% of what he sings is in Inuk. He's traveled to Toronto and around both Ontario and Quebec giving performances. Snowball's going to send us the CD's so we can review them in a future issue.

Three ladies were up next with drums and chants. This was a well-received set by *Ulali* with the audience clapping madly. I don't think these girls even needed the mikes because their voices just seemed to reach out and grab you by the neck hairs. Have you ever felt that? You know, where the neck hairs stand up, salute the flag and run shivers down your back? Well that night I did!

Next it was time for Lucian-Gaberial Jourdin for some traditional Innu drumming and singing. I've seen him play before and have always enjoyed it immensely. It was no different this time. Definitely a talented man.

The spokesperson for the Montreal First People's Film Festival, Richard Desjardin was up next. This Quebecois songwriter-singer-poet is well known. You know he's going to be a crowd pleaser. People were stoked when he appeared and showed it by singing along with well-known songs to his surprise. He took it in stride. At one point, Snowball came on the stage to join him in a song. After he left the stage Desjardins remarked that at least the Inuk wouldn't have to deal with the forestry problem. That got a laugh but it wasn't his last reference to Quebec's forestry issue this evening.

I wish I knew what song it was but I was informed he modernized one of his classics and people loved the changes. The laughter and faces of the audience said that the rebuilding of this classic was more than welcome.

Desjardins was practically dragged back on stage for another song by the crowds stomping, clapping, cheering and shouting of his name. Clearly a crowd pleaser, he has earned his status as a Quebec musical demigod.

Last up for the night was Florent Vollant. Willie Mitchell would be pleased to know that the remake of music older music has hit the Native milieu. Vollant did a remake of Beaverman that had the audience yelling for more. Vollant delivered a stunning performance.

The night was a success. How much you ask? Well you had to be there to appreciate it. N :t year, don't miss it!

On Wednesday *The Strange Case of Bunny Weequod* was shown. What I like about this film was the combining of legends and native spirituality with modern times. It showed what could happen in light of today's skepticism when confronted by the unexplainable. Bunny goes out fishing but there are less fish. Then one day he falls overboard and disappears for three days. Bunny's looking all spiffy and clean-shaven before he arrives back with a beard. That's when it starts getting strange. I can't say anymore without ruining the story for you but it's good. *Noted author Drew Hayden Taylor wrote The Strange Case of Bunny Weequod* so you can expect something interesting with humour thrown in. The man always seems to deliver. I look forward to more work from

Taylor and Cool Native Productions. Director Steve Van Denzen said he has about four more projects in the works. He says he has to squeeze them in his hectic work schedule. Personally I hope he gets a little more time on his hands, as the film is great!

Saturday saw a parade with First Nations from all over participating. This year there was a definite Inuk and Inuit presence. My son Eric held one of the dream catchers and participated in the parade. These days when I tell him we're going to a parade his first question is whether we're watching it or walking in it!

At the end of the parade Eric joined in the square dancing that seemed to have spontaneously popped up. Later we enjoyed watching the NWT's championship team perform their unique athletic talents for us. I was impressed with the jumping up and hitting a seal with two feet and then landing on their two feet. We're talking as high or higher than their heads here. The team is off in Hanover, Germany to put on a display as you read this.

On Wednesday June 21st, a small ceremony was held on Mount Royal to commemorate National Aboriginal Day.

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Action Boreale off and singing

-William Nicholls

Richard Desjardins is a recognized icon of Quebec. One only has to see audience reaction to him when he's on stage. His songs and poetry are about Quebec and the people who live here. They are humourous, to the point, invoke memories and patriotism and they make him one of the most beloved sons of French Quebec. He is the son of a forestry worker and from the Abitibi region.

All of this makes Desjardins a strong spokesperson for the boreal forest. Desjardins shocked people last year when he came out with a homemade documentary called *L'Erreurre Boreale* on the northern forests and what the forestry companies were doing to it. Desjardins says he was and still is shocked by the clear cutting practices and fears there won't be any forests left for the children and others to enjoy. Forests that Desjardins says are magnificent.

Forests that brought Desjardins to Montreal's Spectrum on Monday, June 19th to put on the first of two benefit shows for Action Boreale. Action Boreale is the brainchild of Desjardins, songwriter, poet turned forestry activist. Action Boreale is designed to pressure the government and the forestry companies to change the current clear-cut and gut practices. Desjardins said the money raised from the show would be used to open a small office dedicated to fighting current forestry practices in northern Quebec.

Desjardins has said he's not alone in this fight, along with thousands of Quebecois he points out that the fight is carried out also by the First Nations Peoples of Quebec.

Desjardins said publicly that he's allied himself with the Crees in a desire to save the boreal forest. In one venue he said he could understand why Crees have been taking the fight down south. Desjardins said that with the removal of Judge Crouteau from the forestry case, anybody would a lack of confidence in the Quebec justice system. Pretty strong words from anyone but Desjardins is used to strong words.

His words during the show were to the point and humourous. Words that possibly only Desjardins could get away with. At one point he told of how beautiful the untouched forests were. He said that the old growth were virgin forest and with a twinkle in his eye said that in Quebec we had to protect virgins as there weren't many left.

In the past Jacques Robitaille, president of the Association des Manufacturiers de Bois de Sciage du Quebec, said Desjardins is misleading and doesn't know what he is talking about.

Perhaps Desjardins has heard what was said about him because at the benefit he was talking not only to the heart but also to the mind. He said that the governments own figures say that forestry companies are cutting 30 per cent more than the forest could produce. Desjardins was giving government and forestry company exact figures on what was being cut and where.

Desjardins distrusts those figures though. He wonders about the government's schizophrenic role as protector and exploiter of the forests in Quebec. That is why Desjardins has said Quebec needs an independent public inquiry into forestry practices. "How can we really know what is going on without it," said Desjardins. He doesn't trust the government to make public input of the Quebec Forestry Act meaningful. "People in Quebec want this but the government doesn't. It makes you ask why?"" said Desjardins.

But does Desjardins have a chance to do anything? Jacques Brassard, Minster of Natural Resources wrote to Desjardins saying his film may hurt Quebec like films on the seal hunt hurt the Magdelan Islands. Brassard said 200,000 jobs are at stake and that the government wasn't going to stop the forestry industry but had a duty to support it.

The film has English sub-titles and is being used by Crees south of the border in the US to support the Cree fight against forestry. The combination of Desjardins and like-minded Quebecer's and the Crees may very well prove too much for the government in the long run. Desjardins popularity as a respected songwriter-artist even runs to the international market.

One such inspired songwriter Roger Tabar came from France and asked for Canadian citizenship so he could be in the same province as Desjardins. "Richard Desjardins is the Greatest," he said continuing with "he's my master, master of the words, of the spirit, master of love. He's my idol,"

I asked Tabar what he thought about Desjardins taking on the forestry issues in Quebec and he said, "Richard is a good way, an able ambassador of this cause."

The Spectrum benefit show was packed. There weren't enough seats for all the people who came. I guess this is what they call a sold-out show. A beginning that promises much. A second show was held in Rouyn Noranda on Wednesday June 21st.

READERS SURVEY 2000!

We were goofing off, as usual, one afternoon wondering what you the readers want. What you enjoy. What you listen to. What movies you watch. How old you are. Male or female. If you are still there for us of if you have left us for another.

Fill out this handy questionnaire, sign your name on the dotted line and send it in a.s.a.p. You know where to send it. Everybody who's anybody knows where we are. And don't use any of that chicken scratch writing either. We have enough trouble trying to read faxes.

Don't forget to give us your name and address to include in our draw - we're giving away a gift basket, made especially for the winner. It'll be filled with all kinds of goodies and surprises, so don't miss your chance to win!

Without further ado, let the interrogation begin...

Which of the following do you read and why?

- News ☐ _____
- Briefs ☐ _____
- Rez Notes ☐ _____
- Editorial ☐ _____
- Features ☐ _____
- Profiles ☐ _____
- Recipes ☐ _____
- Northern Sky ☐ _____
- Book Reviews ☐ _____
- Classifieds ☐ _____
- Poetry ☐ _____
- Letters ☐ _____
- Legends ☐ _____
- Cree@large ☐ _____

What would you like to see in The Nation?

Humour

- Comic strip ☐
- Word Games ☐
- Jokes ☐
- Funny Photos ☐
- Crazy interviews ☐

Entertainment

- Fashion ☐
- Trivia ☐
- Internet ☐
- Music, Film, Book Reviews ☐
- Travel ☐
- Restaurant Reviews ☐
- Movie Listings ☐

Education

- History ☐
- Culture ☐
- Tradition ☐
- Language ☐
- Kids ☐

Health

Spirituality ☐

Healing ☐

Nutrition ☐

Exercise ☐

Other

Inspirational Stories ☐

Horoscopes ☐

Quizzes ☐

Role Model ☐

Sports ☐

Parenting ☐

Contests ☐

Polls ☐

Streeters ☐

Business ☐

Name your favorite:

Movie _____

Magazine _____

Book _____

Song _____

Band _____

Food _____

Celebrity _____

Role Model _____

Nation Issue _____

Nation Cover _____

Rate the Nation

Writing	1	2	3	4	5
Photography	1	2	3	4	5
Design	1	2	3	4	5
Layout	1	2	3	4	5
Type Size	1	2	3	4	5
Interesting	1	2	3	4	5
Educational	1	2	3	4	5
Fun	1	2	3	4	5
Informative	1	2	3	4	5
Negative	1	2	3	4	5
Political	1	2	2	4	5
Mediocre	1	2	3	4	5
Boring	1	2	3	4	5

Other (Godlike, Jack of all trades, Master of none,Reeks)

Who are you, anyway?

Name _____

Age _____

Sex _____

Community _____

Education _____

Marital Staus _____

Occupation _____

Hobbies _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Where Did You Pick Up This Issue? _____

Where Do You Usually Read The Nation? _____

If you could change one thing about The Nation what would it be? (Winner gets surprise gift basket! Make sure you answer all questions and give us your personal info.)

The Nations Met

Premier Lucian Bouchard

Matthew Coon Come

Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses

and they discussed

Cooperation Between the Leaders
Relations Between the Crees and Quebec
Recognition of two Peoples

Forestry and Cree Rights

Obligations of Government
Treaty Rights and Implementation
MOU Implementation

Community Development- Housing

The meeting between Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses
and Premier Lucian Bouchard took place on June 22, 2000

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GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EEYOU ASTCHEE)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

TIME TO RECYCLE

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

I recently rediscovered the joy of riding a bicycle. Over the past few years I have been taking some time during my week to go for a ride down a country road or through town. It is an enjoyable and easy way to get some exercise. It is also a great way to see things as it is not too fast and not too slow. Not only do I get a lot of exercise from riding my bike but I get the chance to feel like a kid again.

Why do most of us leave our bicycles behind after we head into the so-called more mature ages? Many people believe it is necessary to give up their bicycles as they grow older. What they don't realize is that this makes no sense at all. What is wrong with staying young and trying to enjoy the things we liked when we were just kids? Not only is bicycling a great way to stay in shape and keep healthy; as a bonus it is also good for your spirit and mind.

I learned to ride a bicycle a lot later than my friends. I remember running alongside the other kids who had their own bicycles. My sister Jackie gave me my first lesson on her bike and although I ended up in a water-filled ditch and actually lost my shoe in this murky stuff I was still thrilled by the experience. I lobbied my parents for a bike and one glorious summer day I went with mom and dad to the Northern Store and picked out my first bicycle and a brand new one at that.

As soon as I learned how to ride well enough I joined my friends to explore my home community of Attawapiskat from one end of town to the other. We made our own paths through the community, across people's yards, through ditches and we all worked hard at trying to outdo each other by creating a new trail where there wasn't one before. When we grew bored of being in town we went into the woods to ride the bush trails along the river and we rolled over the rough paths crossing small creeks and rapids stretching our world as much as possible.

When I left Attawapiskat to attend high school in Timmins, I felt as though I could no longer be a kid, part of which meant I was supposed to give up using my bicycle. It was a time when I felt a lot of peer pressure from many people to dress and act a certain way. In this new world of designer clothes and fitting in, it seemed that my childhood activities had no place and that it was time for me to "grow up." I was separated from my bicycle. Riding a bike was not cool but smoking cigarettes and drinking gave you a place with the gang.

Thank God I have regained my senses and my bicycle is very much a part of my life again. The idea of getting too old to ride a bicycle is obsolete. This is a pleasure and an activity we should always be able to enjoy whether we are young or old. It is easy to get into biking once again. You can pick up a great and durable mountain bike for around $100 brand new or choose an older type at a garage sale or flee market for much less. A lot of bikes I had when I was a kid were not always in the best shape but I still enjoyed them.

I take my bicycle everywhere these days. When I visit Toronto or other large cities to the south I bring my bike as this is a great way to move around on fantastic paved bike trails. Most cities these days have very good trails that are safe and offer many kilometres of pleasant riding. Think about it for a minute... A bicycle as a form of leisure and transportation just makes so much sense. After all, I can travel great distances under my own power and all the time creating no pollution. As a matter of fact it also keeps me in great shape. So if you too have put your bike away because it was time to "grow up" then I suggest you dust off the cobwebs and get right back out there on your very own two-wheeled wonder.

Wishing the Class of 2000
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The Centre for Native Education would like to extend its best wishes to all Cree Graduates

Congratulations and the best of luck in all future endeavours

Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie
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Best Wishes & Congratulations!

to Mabel Herodier
for her election to the position of
Chairperson of the
Cree School Board!

Types of Speakers at Conference

1. **The Opposition**

Their motto is "Oppose, Oppose, Oppose"

They are against anything and everything on the agenda

Whatever the topic is, they are against it

They usually congregate in one area of the hall before the meeting to plan their attack

2. **The Bitching Committee**

They whine and complain about every topic on the agenda

They also make up other topics to bitch about

They tend to meet in a different area of the hall than the opposition probably to make a list of things to bitch about

They offer no solutions

3. **The Babbling Ramblers**

Something happens to these people when they get a hold of a microphone. They kind of snap mentally, their personality changes and they start making up things just to hear themselves talk

They fall in love with their own voices and throw the whole conference off track with their rambling dialogue

4. **The Story Tellers**

They have a very lengthy and detailed story to tell

Most of the time the story has absolutely nothing to do with the conference but the people have GOT to hear it

5. **The Left-Fielder**

This person starts out with something important to say, but his mind goes blank when he gets to the microphone so he ends up talking about anything that pops into his mind

The other people at the conference think he's wierd

6. **The Power-Tripper**

This person is here to remind everybody that he or she is God's gift to mankind

Uses a lot of technical terms even they don't understand themselves

People have absolutely no idea what they are talking about and often agree with them just to get them to stop talking

7. **The Time Traveller**

This person starts off every speech with the words, "When I was young we never..."

Lives in the past and doesn't believe in the future because everything is going to hell in a handbasket

Closely related to the story teller

8. **The Messenger**

This person has no opinions of his own

This person is very frequently pushed up to the microphone by either the opposition or the bitching committee to express all of their many concerns

Often gets confused trying to remember what he was told to say, and ends up being a "left-fielder" or even worse a "babbling rambler"

9. **"Those who Almost Make Sense"**

These people usually start off ok, but they have a tendency to become a babbling rambler or they either just up and join the bitching committee

CREE NATION OF
WEMINDJI

The Council and staff of the Cree Nation of Wemindji would like to

congratulate

all of this year's graduates in Wemindji and throughout the Cree Nation.
We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all our young people to continue their education.

You are the future of the Cree Nation.

Congratulations!
to Mabel Herodier
for her hard work and determination
on being elected
Chairperson
of the Cree School Board!

From the Council and staff
of the Cree Nation of Wemindji.

YEAR 2001 EDITION

THE JAMES BAY CREE TELEPHONE BOOK

Availible in November 2000, the James Bay Cree Telephone book brings us closer together - making it easier to contact each other - family to family, friend to friend, department to department and business to new and old customers. Make sure you're accessible, drop us a line if you have a new phone or number or if you're a new Cree business. The listing is free!

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Beesum Communications
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Mabel Herodier
for being elected
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Well Done & Best Wishes

The Nation

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Smoking fish at a Wellness Gathering in Mistissini last year. Note the fire extingusher in the tree. Think safety in the bush.

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congratulates

The Northern Quebec Teaching Association ***congratulates***

all of this year's ***Cree graduates*** *on their success.*

success

We are ***proud*** *of all of you!*

proud

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L'Association de l'enseignement du Nouveau-Québec ***félicite***

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tous les ***finissants*** *de cette année. Nous sommes* ***fiers*** *de vous* ***tous!***

finissants

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- NOT OUR WAY OF LIFE

By Marilynn Bearskin

Wachiya. I am presently taking a Bachelors of Social Work course along with 50 other students from our nine communities. Our last course was held in Rouyn at the University of Abitibi-Temisacaming. We were asked to write a short paper about any topic or issue that we need to deal with in our communities and how we can approach the issue, I wanted to share with you my paper, and my opinion on this issue.

I believe that experiences people go through, go through these experiences for a reason and that it is to share your experience with other people that need to deal with this issue. People should not take people's openness as a threat when one is trying to speak about an issue, the only reason why people bring issues out into the open is because they are trying to contribute their support to people that are having a hard time trying to deal with certain issues, if it was not for people that listened and gave me their support in helping me deal with this issue, I would not be here writing this paper today to give my support to other men and women that are trying to deal with Domestic Violence. Its funny at one time I carried so much anger that I literally blamed men for their actions. If I hadn't educated myself about Domestic Violence and our history, I think I still would have had the same attitude towards this issue. I'm starting to understand

Domestic Violence now and where it comes from. Our history tells me a lot. Domestic Violence was a behavior that was instilled into our people. In fact when we were first introduced to mainstream society, the early European settlers brought with them the belief of the men being more superior than the women. They also brought with them there institutions, such as residential schools and these institutions were powerful teachers of violence.

Residential Schools were implemented to civilize our people and as a result of Residential Schools physical, emotional, and spiritual abuses were learnt and internalized.

During our so-called civilization, our traditional ways began to erode and our people later became lost to the alcohol and drugs, Our addictions contributed to the downward spiral of learned violent behavior. Because of not knowing how to control our addictions we saw violence everywhere, it became a part of our everyday lives. We then began to internalize anger, bitterness, resentment and low self-esteem.

This is just a small part of our history, there is so much, this we will have to learn individually if we are to understand why we are the way we are. Our healing will require us to rediscover who we are, recovering our identity through our history will contribute to healing ourselves, We need to rededicate ourselves to understanding our traditional ways, We will not find our self-image outside, policies and procedures will only put a halt on issues that we are trying to deal with. It will be a long journey to recovery, we must develop our own processes of healing, this must be done if we are to return once more as a people without violence. We need to start implementing our values into our resources, and only then will our people be able to deal with the core of Domestic Violence.

Our people will need to implement a healing approach rather than continue to think of Domestic Violence as an issue that is Negative. The focus on wellness demands a method that is different from the responses we have now. Our two societies clash, our way seeks harmony and peace among individuals, the western method punishes the abuser and separates the individual from the family.

If one is trying to deal with Domestic Violence, I suggest educating yourself about Domestic Violence, so that it will not be a part of your everyday life.

Everyone deserves to live a safe life without having to worry about what tomorrow holds. Our children do not need to live in fear and it is not fair that we take away their innocence. Many childian are silent witnesses of Domestic Violence and what they see they carry,

Our children are our future, we are their teachers. It is our responsibility to start educating our children well so that they will not pass down the same pain we carry today to their children.

One thing to remember about Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence happens because we let it, and it will stop when we say it must!

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

It's a Boy! Isaiah Allen Thomas Niibinwaashkum Matoush came into this world on June 9 at 5:55 a.m., weighing 4 lbs and 6 oz. Proud parents for this little bundle of joy are Claudine and Allen, a little brother for "Tati" Tatiana. A new addition in the photo album of grandchildren for Janie & Robert Kanatewat. Please take care of this precious little gift, he's yours to take care of, nurture, love and cherish. I know you will have a lot of fun with him so enjoy every moment of it. I can't wait for you two to come home. From a very proud auntie Charlotte & Uncle Rusty, from your cousins Steve, Candace & Darius

Well, I never got to congratulate my sister and Clint on their new arrivals of their twins Allisson and Kirk on Feb. 12, 2000. I love you guys. Take care. With love, your auntie and god-mother, Charlene C.

Congratulations to my sister Ms. Charlene Wapachee and Dale Louttit on the safe arrival of their baby boy, Julian Ricardo on June 12, 2000. We wish you all the best, hope this baby brings you both lots of happiness. We love you all and we're so excited for you guys. From a proud aunt and cousin, Charlotte and Abel

Congratulations to my cousin Christopher Loon and his girlfriend Doris Ottereyes on the birth of their baby girl Emma Teysha Nadine Loon on May 8, 2000. Weighing 9 pounds 8 ounces. Take good care of your baby girl and may you have many more to come. With love Veronica Longchap XOX

Congratulations to Beverly and Marvin Cheezo on the birth of their baby girl "Marvina Rose Mary" born at 5:05 am on May 3, 2000 at the Clinic of Eastmain. Pretty soon, she will start using Marvinsh's famous words "SHOOYAN MAH!" Hey Marvina, May 3 is a special day for us! (sharing birthdays) love always, Francine

102-WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Mrs. John & Bianca Fireman on their wedding on April 21, 2000. I'm sorry I couldn't be there. I wish you both happiness and a long life together and take care of Isaiah. Love always, Your aunt Kathleen and kids

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 1st anniversary to James & Mary Jane Sealhunter on July 2, 2000. Wishing you all the best and take care of each other. Love always your aunt Kathleen and kids

Happy 17 anniversary to my brother and sister-in-law, Raymond & Clara Kanatewat on June 15. You have been given three beautiful children to raise, raise them well with love, encouragement, praise, trust and faith. For you already have two younger teenagers and they say life gets harder as your kids get older, you have more things to worry about. Also be faithful to your relationship to each other, trust one another, take care of one another, communicate with one another, be loyal to one another and most of all love one another. This way your relationship will be stronger as you two get older and wiser. Wishing you many more wonderful happy anniversaries for you to celebrate together. Love from your sister/sister-in-law Charlotte

I would like to wish my wife April a very Happy Anniversary on the 26 of July. Let's have a wonderful life together as we've had so far with our two beautiful children, Brandon and Amberlane. Love always, your husband Tony

To my handsome brother Patrick and his beautiful wife Trifona, Happy first anniversary. Have you two been married for a year already!? Just a year ago you both said I do. It went by so fast. A first anniversary is special, and I hope it was a special day for you both, because you deserve it. May you have more wonderful anniversaries . Love your sister Chantal

Happy 13 anniversary to our parents Wilfred & Verna Cheezo on June 23. You're so important to us, you both showed us you guys care by your concerned words, you both give us hope and strength for better tomorrows, you're both so important and no other parents in the world could ever take your place in our lives and hearts. We love you both. Happy anniversary with love always, your children Diana, Gary, Dorianne, Alexander, Martin from Eastmain

To Victor and Irene Gilpin. Wishing you a happy anniversary on the 23rd of June. Your anniversary is a celebration of the day you promised each other a lifetime of love. It's a celebration of marriage built on friendship and respect, a partnership made of patience and understanding. So today, we offer our blessings, love and support. Love always, your brother Wilfred and wife Verna Cheezo

Happy 13th anniversary to my husband Wilfred Cheezo on June 23. It's true that love can grow stronger with time. I've seen it in our marriage. Looking back it's easy to see God's hand on us. I'm so thankful to have a lifetime to love you. Love always, your wife Verna Cheezo from Eastmain

104-GRADUATIONS

We would like to congratulate our friend Bobby Happyjack. He will be graduating from N.J.H.M.S. We love you Bobby, but it is now time to choose between us. Love your buddies, Sheena and Cheryl Ann

FATHERS DAY

To a special and the most caring father in the whole wide world, my loving father Robert Kanatewat, Happy Father's Day, Dad. You deserve to take a rest on this special day, you're always working too hard trying to make ends meet. Now that this is your day, try to take it easy. There are no words that can describe how much you love your children, grandchildren, especially your daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and your son-in-law to be. Just giving us hugs and kisses says it all, not

CLASSIFIEDS

just on any special occasion, it can be anytime of the hour, day... this is what I appreciate the most of your caring ways, you treat everyone of us with special attention and equally. Well, maybe, except for your grandchildren, but that's understandable! I would also like to say your love, support, guidance and your wisdom are very much appreciated. Again, have a happy father's day and many more days to come. Chiisachiihiitin, with all my heart, hugs & kisses. From your oldest daughter and Namesake, Charlotte

200-ANNOUNCEMENT

Take notice that, Mary Ann Polson, Address, 34 Poplar Street, waswanipi, Quebec, J0Y 3C0 will present to the director of Civil Status, demand change of name to Caroline Mary Ann Polson, April 17, 2000.

Looking for someone to sublet a large 51/2 unfurnished apartment on Nun's Island in Montreal. Available anytime, ASAP. Until September 30. If anyone is interested, please call 418-745-3951.

Looking for a roommate to share a large 5 1/2. Must be a student or professional and a non-smoker. Good location near downtown and all amenities. Call 849-2553.

Anyone that has pieces of hide. Tanned or not tanned. Can they send it to me in Montreal. I use it to wrap my dreamcatchers. Thank you. My adress is, Robie Nichols, 1923 St. Germain, Montreal Est Quebec, H1W 2T5

600-LOVERS AND SECRET ADMIRERS

To the gorgeous lady in red, I haven't had much time to call you. I guess you know why. I just wanted to let you know I'm dying to see you. I miss you. I miss hearing your sexy voice. I've been thinking alot about you. Lately I remember the good times we shared together, especially that time at your house on your [redacted]. Maybe I'll come and see you if I win the lotto 649 next week. From your secret lover ??

This goes to someone that I admired for a long time. His name is Reggie Sam'sh. From the first day, I saw you I can't keep my eyes off of you. There's another girl who likes you who's in Waskaganish. You better stay away from her. I'm more woman than she is. You hear that Waskaganish girl, stay away from him. He's mine! From your secret admirer

700-PENPALS

SCF seeking Email pen pals between the ages of 17-22 of any community. I'm 18, 5'7 and I love to make new friends. Looking forward to hearing from you! Dreamwhisper_@excite.com (I'll be waiting!)

Hey Cree Nation! Seeking E-mail pen pals. I am SCM 19 yrs of age. I am from ah! can't tell ya! So if you wish to make a new friend, E-mail me at avs_102@hotmail.com. I will respond your E-mail.

hello to eeyou istchee SCM looking for pen pals throughout the James bay area I'm from ahhh I will respond to anybody who will write ehhgoo deh wachiya e-mail me at roaddog74@hotmail.com

I would like to say to a girl named Katrina Orr what's up girl just wanted to let you know that I'm thinking of you and I want to get to know you, maybe we can start a friendship. so you can e-mail me at wildthang19@go.com

Hello to all you obsessed e-mailers out there! (just like me.) I'm a sixteen year old looking for new e-mail pals that are between the ages of 16_19,male/female doesn't matter!. So if anyone wants to write to me my e-mail ad is:hot_squaw@hotmail.com hopefully I'll be making new friends in the Cree communities! see-ya! p.s friendship satisfaction guaranteed! (ever sick!)

Hello there Cree Girls, my name is Oreah from Montreal, I am a female. I know that this is gonna sound weird, but lets try this once. Its a trivia, okay this is how it goes. Give me two names from each 9 Cree communities that you think is the cutest boys in the Cree Nation, I'll personally send you the results trough your email addresses by June 21, 2000. okay here is where you will email your trivia at: Oreah_2000babe@hotmail.com LETS TRY THIS FOR FUN GIRLS.

Looking for e-pals between the ages of 17-20 of the Cree nation male or female, it doesn't matter. I'm 17 soon to be 18. I like to meet new people. and looking forward to hearing from you lovely people! If you want to get to know me better! just write to me at friendly_2000_82@yahoo.com I'll be waiting!

LISTEN UP PEOPLE!!!! I would like to say Happy Easter to my family from Great Whale River, my grandparents, my uncles, my brothers, and my loving dad!!! My other family in Chisasibi, My grandparents, my aunties, my cousins, my uncles, and my loving mom!!! And to the cheezo family in Eastmain.... HAPPY EASTER TO YOU TOO... Love Always Andrea xox

SCF's seeking penpals, any gender between ages 22-30 of any community. We look forward to hearing from you so just email us to frisky_foxes@hotmail.com or write to frisky foxes C/O P.O.Box 263 Moosonee ON POL-1YO. Hope to hear from you soon, We'll write back ASAP.

HI! We are looking for penpals of any age, male or female. We enjoy receiving and writing letters of the Cree Nation. We promise to rely ASAP. Please write to: Penpal, 244 Riverside Drive, Apt. # 202, Sudbury, Ontario,

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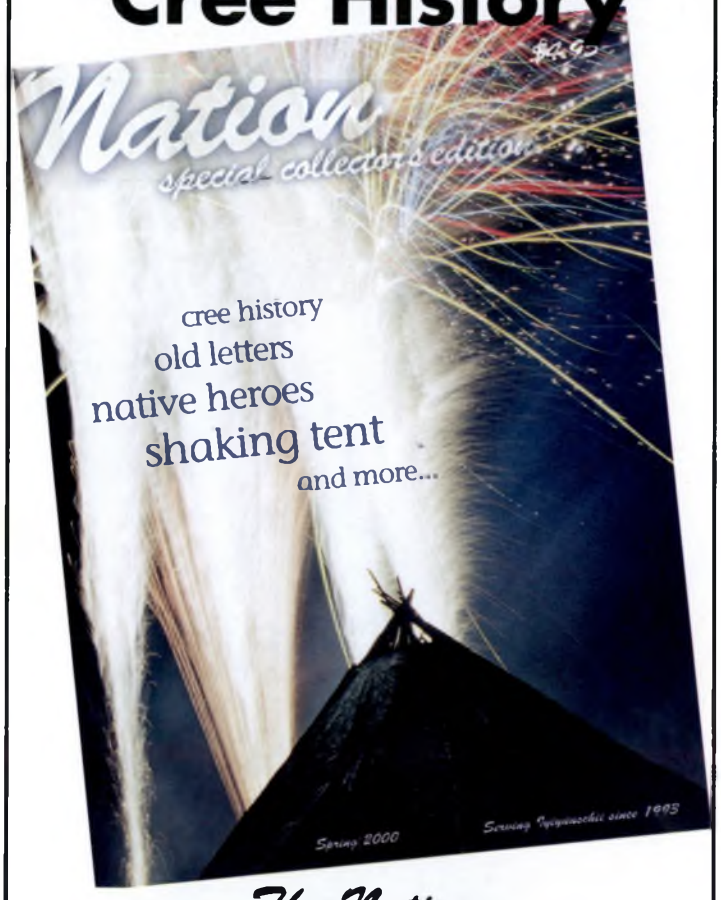

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